

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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R 0952 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC/POLAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, ID, MY, PI

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN DAILY SPECULATES ABOUT FUTURE " SABAH
CLAIMS" DIRECTED AGAINST INDONESIA

REF: A. JAKARTA 5463; B. JAKARTA 5174

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: FEATURE ARTICLE IN JAKARTA DAILY SINAR HARAPAN
PURPORTS TO EXPLAIN STATEMENT BY PRESIDENTIAL ADE ALI
MURTOPO THAT UNLESS GOP DROPS SABAH CLAIM, INDONESIA MIGHT
BE EXPOSED TO SIMILAR CLAIMS IN FUTURE. ARTICLE SAYS THAT
PRELIMINARY VERSION OF CLAIM AIRED IN 1962 (BUT LATER
REJECTED BY PHILIPPINE CONGRESS IN CONTEXT OF JOINT
PHIL- INDON OPPOSITION TO MALAYSIA) DID EXTEND TO
INDONESIAN ISLANDS SOUTH OF SABAH BORDER. ARTICLE
FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT LANGUAGE IN NEW PHIL CONSTITUTION
COULD FACILITATE SIMILAR CLAIMS AGAINST INDONESIA IN
FUTURE. END SUMMARY

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1. FEATURE ARTICLE IN MAY 8 ISSUE JAKARTA DAILY SINAR
HARAPAN PURPORTS TO EXPLAIN STATEMENT BY PRESIDENTIAL AIDE
GENERAL ALI MURTOPO THAT PHILIPPINES SHOULD DROP SABAH
CLAIM BECAUSE OTHERWISE SIMILAR CLAIMS MIGHT AT SOME POINT

BE RAISED AGAINST INDONESIA (REF B). ACCORDING ARTICLE, " BARBERO AMENDMENT" PROPOSED BY MEMBER OF PHILIPPINE CONGRESS IN 1962 EXTENDED PHILIPPINE CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER EX- SULTANATE OF SULU TO COVER TERRITORY SOUTH OF SABAH- EAST KALIMANTAN BORDER AS WELL, INCLUDING HALF OF SEBATIK ISLAND PLUS NUNUKAN AND SIBUKU ISLANDS. ARTICLE SAYS THAT AMENDMENT WAS REJECTED BY CONGRESS IN CONTEXT OF PHILIPPINE- INDONESIAN JOINT STAND AGAINST FORMATION OF MALAYSIA. HOWEVER, ARTICLE NOTES POSSIBILITY THAT A " SECOND BARBERO" MIGHT COME FORWARD IN THE FUTURE. IT FURTHER SPECULATES THAT PROVISIONS OF NEW PHIL CONSTITUTION WHICH RECENTLY WENT INTO EFFECT MIGHT ENCOURAGE SUCH A CLAIM. UNLIKE OLD CONSTITUTION, WHICH IN CHAPTER ONE PARAGRAPH ONE DEFINED PHIL TERRITORY AS AREAS CEDED BY SPAIN TO US UNDER TREATY OF PARIS, NEW DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY DEFINES PHIL TERRITORY TO ACCORD WITH UNSPECIFIED " HISTORICAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, PREVIOUS WORDING WAS A STRONG ARGUMENT AGAINST SABAH (AND OTHER POSSIBLE) CLAIMS WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REMOVED.

3. ARTICLE ALSO RAISES SPECTURE OF POSSIBLE PHILIPPINE CLAIM AGAINST MIANGIS ISLAND (POPULATION 2000) WHICH LIES NORTH OF SANGIR- TELAUD ARCHIPELAGO AND IS SAID TO BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO INDONESIA. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MIANGIS WAS SUBJECT OF COMPLETING CLAIMS FROM AMERICANS AND DUTCH AS RECENTLY AS 1925, WHEN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION RULED IN FAVOR OF DUTCH SINCE THEY HAD OCCUPIED IT SINCE 1700, REJECTING US POSITION THAT MIANGIS HAD BEEN " DISCOVERED" BY SPANISH AND WAS GEOGRAPHICALLY PART OF PHILIPPINES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: REGARDLESS ARTICLE' S MERITS, ARGUMENT IT ADVANCES WILL BE NOTED BY INDONESIAN LEADERS. AUTHOR MAX KARUNDENG, SECOND DEPUTY EDITOR OF SINAR HARAPAN, IS FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH SULAWESI (INDONESIAN PROVINCNE WHICH INCLUDES MIANGIS). ARTICLE MAY MERELY BE REFLECTION OF HIS PERSONAL VIEWS. HOWEVER, NEW EDITORIAL LEADRSHIP OF SINAR HARAPAN HAS CLOSE TIES TO STATE INTELLIGENCE BODY (BAKIN) AND POSSIBILITY THAT ARTICLE WAS OFFICIALLLY INSPIRED OR AT LEAST REPRESENTS ONE STRAND IN OFFICIAL THINKING, CANNOT BE RULED OUT. MURTOPO HIMSELF MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO " BARBERO AMENDMENT" IN HIS COMMENTARY, NOR DID FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CHAGRIN AT HIS REMARKS (REF A). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. TEXT OF TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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